

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL /
2016 BUDGET HEARINGS
August 18, 2015**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein O. Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Stephen R. Jordan, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts and Paul Norwine. Also present was Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor and Donna J. Horner, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Norwine.

MINUTES: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 14, 2015. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / CAGIT – SPECIAL LEGISLATION FUND: Advertised in the CAGIT – Special Legislation Fund, Other Services & Charges, Utilities was \$75,000.00. After the submission of the June utility bill, the remaining balance is \$25,282.00. There are five months remaining for claims to be turned in this year and December's billing will be submitted in January of 2016. Sheriff Risner stated that the summer utility bills have been running approximately \$16,000.00 per month. For this reason, additional funding is needed. Mr. Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2015-08A** in the amount of \$75,000.00. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION PACKAGE: Mr. DeVries stated that he thinks the application package is very nicely done. Attention was brought to a spelling error. Under the heading "Tax Abatement Applications Shall Include", the word rational should be rationale. Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the Tax Abatement Application Package with the correction. Mr. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION / UPDATE: Kevin Kelly, Director, stated that he is currently in the process of working on the annual report. An update was given. Mr. Kelly invited all of the Council Members to the Annual Golf Classic and Meeting that will take place at Sandy Pines beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 25.

BLOOD WORK / FRANCISCAN: Mr. Price stated that he spoke with Tim Schreeg at the hospital and he believes that Franciscan is very interested in figuring out a way to provide blood work locally. Jack Fagen, Financial Arts, is also looking into other options.

METAL THEFT BILL: Mr. Price reported that he spoke with Representative Gutwein in regards to his metal theft bill. The legislature had other issues they were dealing with this last session and a lot of bills did not get heard. According to Mr. Price, Representative Gutwein said that he has a commitment from the legislative leadership that his anti-metal theft bill to protect farmers and small business people is going to have a top priority at the next legislative session.

VIOLATIONS BUREAU: Mr. Price also reported that he has spoken with Attorney Beaver who has been working on the whole idea of the Violations Bureau. Mr. Price has also spoken with Judge Ahler.

BUDGET PROJECTION: Mr. Bontreger reported that he has had a little conversation with a few associates of Senator Hershman in regards to our budget. They are working on creating a mechanism that will help give us an income projection instrument that would give us an idea of how much income from tax money we're going to get so that when we are preparing our budgets we have an idea of what will be available. Auditor Grow has also spoken with them regarding the same concerns.

2016 BUDGET HEARINGS:

COUNTY GENERAL FUND / SHERIFF'S BUDGET: Sheriff Risner stated that the total amount requested within all of his funds is \$5,044,437.00. The amount requested in 2015 was \$4,844,970.00. Sheriff Risner has requested to move the E911 Coordinator into the Sheriff's budget from the E911 Fund. One dispatcher would then be moved into the E911 Fund. The 911 funding from the State requires that the position be within the 911 center.

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COUNTY GENERAL FUND / SHERIFF'S BUDGET CON'T: Ryan King, E911 Coordinator, does several other duties; therefore, he does not meet the requirements for the state funding. A 7% salary increase has been requested for the employees listed within this budget. A 10% salary increase has been requested for Ryan King, E911 Coordinator. In regards to the School Resource Officer, the Kankakee Valley High School does return approximately \$45,000.00 per year towards this funding. A request has been made to move the part-time secretary into a full-time position. The "Straight Time / Training" line is used to pay the employees. The "Training-School" line is used to pay for the actual schooling. The "Court Security Equipment" line is for items such as the replacement of a chair, etc.

COUNTY GENERAL FUND / JAIL BUDGET: A 7% salary increase has been requested for all Correctional Officers. Sheriff Risner has also requested four (4) new Correctional Officer positions. If any and/or all of the four (4) positions are approved, the part-time staff is still needed.

STATEWIDE 911 FUND / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner explained that this money is distributed under the 911 funding. The 911 server update was recently completed. A 7% salary increase was requested for the Communication Officers within this fund.

LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY-COUNTY SHARE FUND / SHERIFF: A 7% salary increase has been requested for all officers. A 10% salary increase was requested for Pat Williamson, Chief Deputy. A handout detailing the estimated costs for the hiring of a new officer was distributed and reviewed.

CEDIT COUNTY SHARE / TECHNOLOGY BUDGET (SHERIFF'S ITEMS): Sheriff Risner stated that there are a few items that come out of this budget. The majority of the line items are the same request as last year. A rough estimate for the reoccurring rental cost for the radio tower and the site for the building to sit on is estimated at approximately \$24,000.00 per year. This cost could possibly be reduced if the tower is shared with other fire and safety officials. This cost would most likely be paid out of the "Maintenance Agreement" line item.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND / SHERIFF'S ITEMS: The only two items within this budget that belong to the Sheriff are the "Sheriff Car" line item and the "Equipment for Cars" line item. A request for \$85,000.00 has been made towards the purchase of three (3) new vehicles.

CAGIT – SPECIAL LEGISLATION FUND / JAIL: Sheriff Risner stated that these line items are mostly operational for the jail facility. Quality Correctional Care is paid out of the "Medical & Hospital" line item as well as all hospital care. The amount requested has been increased by \$23,500.00. An additional \$40,000.00 has been requested within the "Utilities" line item.

PARTNERS / DRUG FREE COMMUNITY / SHERIFF: Sheriff Risner explained that this is grant money received from the Partners for a Drug Free Jasper County to be used towards the operating while intoxicated patrols.

There being no further business, Mr. Andree made the motion to continue the 2016 budget hearings until Wednesday, August 19 at 8:30 A.M. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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